



# Focus on Well-Logs

Water Resources Program

## Department of Ecology's Well-Log Internet Site

### Background

Before this spring, anyone looking for information about wells in Washington had to visit or call one of the Department of Ecology's four regional offices across the state.

Now, detailed information about all recorded drinking water and resource wells is available to the general public thanks to a powerful new well-log Internet site recently launched by Ecology. Users can now get information on over 295,000 wells across the state on-line.

The well-log Internet site is used to search and view reports about water or resource wells. Users can search by navigating a state map or by typing or selecting information from the lists provided. A well-log report describes the following information about completed wells:

- Location
- Original ownership
- Construction detail
- Physical characteristic

Information contained in the well-log search application was captured from the original written logs submitted by well drillers. The accuracy of the information is dependent upon the knowledge, skill and care taken by each well driller completing the well report. Well locations are accurate to the nearest township, section and range using public land survey maps and are represented electronically as center points with a section or quarter or quarter/quarter section.

### History

Washington has maintained written well-log information since the 1930s and Ecology has managed the records since 1971. Each change or revision to state well-drilling statutes has resulted in more data being collected about the well, such as location, the people or entities associated with the well, and actions taken on the well.

There have been hundreds of different well drillers who have filed reports with the state, and many are handwritten. While the type of information that must be recorded in a well log has changed over time, the latest major change occurred in 1993. Now, all well reports must be submitted to Ecology within 30 days after a well is complete.

#### Ecology's Well-Log Internet Site

The well-log Internet site is located at:  
<http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/welllog>.

You can also go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com), or [www.access.wa.gov](http://www.access.wa.gov) and search using the words "water well logs."

These sites typically list Washington's well-log site first.

It took Ecology several years to develop the system. The agency had to scan and index more than 60 years of historical documents and create an internal well-log application so staff could capture and share new and updated well information quickly and accurately. Then, the new Internet well-log application was designed and field staff tested it for several months to ensure it was customer-friendly and as useful as possible.

### **Using the new well-log Internet site**

Since Ecology's new well-log site incorporates interactive map and text-query tools, users can utilize their Web browsers to search and view any well-log report currently in the department's files. Queries can be made by clicking on a state map or by typing in a name and address of a desired location.

The well-log site provides easy to use and powerful map search capabilities. You can search by:

- County
- City
- WRIA (Water Resource Inventory Area)
- Township-range-section, or
- Street address and zip code

You can use the original well owner name, well diameter, well depth, well type, completion dates and much more to help find vital well information. You can get one or 40,000 well reports often in under 5 seconds. You can view well-log images or download data and images—all with just a few key strokes.

The site is updated every weekend and new well reports are entered into Ecology's database within one to three weeks of being submitted. This Internet site has proven invaluable for many well drillers, developers, landowners and other users, and currently receives more than 800,000 visits a month.

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### **For more information**

For more information on the well-log Internet site, please contact Ed Young at (360) 407-6644 (email: [eyou461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:eyou461@ecy.wa.gov)).